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where received, even among the German residents of Venezuela. Bad as international law is in some of its aspects, it is not low enough to shield such conduct as this.

Even if the later report from the German commander be true, that the fort fired the first shot at the "Panther" as she was trying to force her way over the bar to seize another Venezuelan vessel, the case is not improved. Why should she have been trying to get beyond the bar for this purpose, with Venezuela helpless and the negotiations going on? No twisting of international law can be made to justify the deed. The result was just what she had figured it would be, and gave her the opportunity desired to do some savage's work.

The upshot of it has been two battles between the fort and the ships, which have cost a number of lives and the destruction of thousands of dollars worth of property, and the rendering of the negotiations more difficult. A still more baneful effect has been the

deepening everywhere throughout America, both North and South, of the feeling, already all too strong, that Germany is only making pretenses of fairness and disinterestedness, while she is really seeking to obtain a foothold upon the South American coast and to defy thence the power and policy of the United States, or to get into open war with this country. This may be, and very probably is, largely imagination, but it serves as well as reality, and is what makes the episode so far reaching in its mischievousness.

The event only illustrates once more the truth of what we said last month, that the cultivation of might leads inevitably to brutality among nations as among men. A good many people are getting their eyes open to this simple fact, and are beginning to see that our nation, as well as others, is getting nearer and nearer to the peril of war and unlimited disaster the more it goes on mailing its fist and encasing its sides in steel.

A STATED INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

To meet once every Five or Seven Years, to deliberate upon Matters of Common Interest to the Nations and make Recommendations to the Governments.

The time at hand for the Establishment of a Congress of Representatives of All the Civilized Nations, to assemble at regular intervals to do the work hitherto performed by special Congresses and Conferences.

The American Peace Society's Memorial to the Massachusetts Legislature, with List of International Congresses and Conferences which have met since 1815.

To the General Court of Massachusetts:

The Board of Directors of the American Peace Society, with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts, respectfully petition your honorable body to adopt a resolution requesting the Congress of the United States to authorize the President of the United States to invite the governments of the world to join in establishing, in whatever way they may judge expedient, a regular international congress, to meet at stated periods — say, every seven years — to deliberate upon the various questions of common interest to the nations and to make recommendations thereon to the governments.

The following reasons lead us to believe that the time is ripe for such action :

1. The nations are to-day united, as never before, in commercial, economic, scientific, social and philanthropic relations, and their mutual interests are constantly and rapidly increasing.

2. The questions constantly arising which concern them all so intimately, require their united action for proper solution, as the governments themselves have long practically recognized.

3. Within the past century about thirty important international congresses and conferences have been held for the discussion and adjustment of matters of immediate and pressing importance — an average of one about every three and a half years. These congresses, a list of the more important of which is given below, have been in large measure successful, and, besides accomplishing the ends for which they were called, have done much to remove friction and prejudice and to promote harmony between the nations, and thereby the general interests of all.

4. These congresses have not only increased in frequency in recent years, and in the number of nations represented in them, but they have also tended to become more and more legislative or quasi-legislative, as in the case of the recent Pan-American Conference, the Brussels Sugar Congress and the Hague Peace Conference.

5. The organization of an international congress of the kind here suggested, to meet at stated periods, would therefore not be an altogether new experiment, but would continue in a regular, permanent and more complete form, with the increased efficiency and usefulness which permanence and regularity bring, what has already been successfully tried on numerous occasions.

6. The idea of a world-congress, on which your honorable predecessors in the General Court of Massachusetts passed strong resolutions in 1837 and 1838, has made great progress in recent years. At the Hague Peace Conference and the Pan-American Conference at Mexico City there was a strong feeling, often expressed, on the part of many of the leading delegates, that such conferences ought to be continued at regular intervals. Not a few publicists of the day feel that the time is near when, in the larger interests of humanity as a whole, a world-congress with real legislative powers will have to be created.

7. There is reason to believe that the proposition to organize a regular congress for deliberation and recommendation on matters of general international concern would not meet with serious objection in any quarter among the nations. The creation of such a congress, whose recommendations would require ratification by the nations before becoming public law, would not impose upon the governments the sacrifice of any of their sovereignty and self-direction. The work of such an international body would in a few decades enable the nations to determine clearly whether it would be expedient for them to go further and to develop the organization into a world-congress with legislative powers.

8. The permanent international court for the settlement of controversies between nations has been set up by the leading powers of the world and is now in successful operation. The counterpart and complement of this court, to which the reference of disputes is voluntary, would be a congress with deliberative and advisory powers, which would perform an equally important service in the development and formulation of international law as the court will do in its interpretation and application.

9. The meeting of regular international congresses for the consideration of the various common

interests of the nations would exert a great and growing influence in favor of amity and mutual goodwill, would lessen the dangers of war, and assure the permanence of peace and the continuance of prosperous commercial relations.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES.

- 1815. The Congress of Vienna, which adjusted the questions left by the Napoleonic campaigns.
- 1825. The Conference of St. Petersburg, which prepared the way for the independence of Greece.
- 1831. The Conference of London, which made Holland and Belgium independent nations.
- 1856. The Congress of Paris, which disposed of the questions entailed by the Crimean War.
- 1864. The Geneva Congress, which established the International Red Cross Society.
- 1867. The Conference of London, which neutralized the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg.
- 1868. The Congress of St. Petersburg, which provided for the restriction of the use of certain types of bullets.
- 1871. The Conference of London, which modified the Paris treaty of 1856.
- 1874. The Congress of Brussels, which prepared a restatement and improvement of the laws of war.
- 1874. The first International Postal Congress, held at Berne, which organized the Universal Postal Union.
- 1875. The Metrical Diplomatic Congress at Paris, which prepared the International Metric Convention and provided for the meeting of a general Conference on Weights and Measures at Paris at least once every six years.
- 1875. The International Telegraphic Conference at St. Petersburg.
- 1877. The Conference of Constantinople, in the interests of the rights of the Porte's Christian subjects.
- 1878. The Congress of Berlin, which modified the treaty of San Stefano after the Russo-Turkish War and rearranged the map of Eastern Europe.
- 1878. International Monetary Conference at Paris, invited by the United States.
- 1881. International Monetary Conference at Paris, invited by the United States and France.
- 1884. The Berlin West African Congress, which set up the Congo Free State.
- 1885. International Prime Meridian Conference at Washington, invited by the United States and attended by representatives from twenty-six nations.
- 1889. The Marine Conference of Washington.
- 1889. The first Pan-American Conference at Washington.
- 1890. The Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference.
- 1892. International Sanitary Conference at Venice, the protocol drawn by which was signed by the delegates of fifteen nations.
- 1893. International Sanitary Conference at Dresden, in which nineteen nations were represented.
- 1896. The Universal Postal Congress, held at Washington and attended by representatives from every nation on the globe.
- 1899. The Hague Peace Conference, which provided for the organization of the Permanent International Court of Arbitration.
- 1901. The Brussels Sugar Congress, which provided for the abolition of sugar bounties.
- 1901. The second Pan-American Conference, held at Mexico City.

By order of the Board of Directors

ROBERT TREAT PAINE, PRESIDENT.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, SECRETARY.

BOSTON, January 1, 1903.